STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] ORDER RE ANSWERS TO SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

CASE NO: CV 08 3168 EMC

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LIQUIDATING TRUST, a California trust; and DOES 1-20, inclusive,

Defendants.

## **AND RELATED ACTIONS**

#### **RECITALS**

- A. Plaintiff Palmtree Acquisition Corporation filed this action ("Action") as a "reopener" of a prior action that was conditionally settled, which prior action was filed on February 3, 1993 in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, entitled *Grubb & Ellis Realty Trust v. Catellus Development Corp.*, et al., and related crossactions, Case No. C93-0383 SBA ("Prior Action").
- B. In the course of litigating the Prior Action, the parties to the Prior Action engaged in discovery relating to the factual background, ownership and operations of certain of the parties to the Prior Action and their conduct which may have resulted in the PCE contamination.
- C. On February 7, 1994, the parties to the Prior Action entered into a settlement agreement ("1994 Settlement"). On February 17, 1994, this Court entered an order approving the settlement agreement and dismissing the Prior Action.
- D. Pursuant to the 1994 Settlement, the parties agreed that the release amongst each other would not extend to:
  - ...any claims, causes of action, obligations, damages, expenses or liabilities resulting from (1) claims or cross-claims arising from actions brought by third parties after the date of this agreement relating to PCE [perchloroethylene] contamination at the properties, or (2) actions by governmental agencies requiring cleanup of PCE contamination or seeking recovery of governmental response costs for the cleanup of PCE contamination: (a) of the deeper aquifer as defined in Paragraph 5 of SCO [Site Cleanup Order], or (b) in the form of DNAPLs, defined as PCE found in pore-water concentrations which exceed

their effective soluabilities as measured using the residual DNAPL detection method of Feenstra, Mackay, and Cherry (1991). The limitations expressed in the preceding sentence on the release contained in this paragraph are referred to as "the Paragraph 9 reopeners".

- E. On March 17, 2008, and March 21, 2008, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWQCB"), a governmental agency, sent letters to certain of the defendants and the plaintiff, and/or their predecessors, requiring the further investigation and monitoring of PCE contamination which potentially impacted the deeper aquifer that may be in the form of DNAPLs, thereby triggering the "Paragraph 9 reopeners" ("RWQCB Directives"). As a result of the RWQCB Directives, certain parties to the prior 1994 Settlement, made a demand upon other parties asserting that the Paragraph 9 reopener applied and demanding that they respond to the RWQCB Directives.
- F. On July 1, 2008, plaintiff Palmtree Acquisition Corporation, the successor to one of the 1994 Settlement parties, Catellus Development Corporation, filed a Complaint for CERCLA Cost Recovery, Damages and Declaratory Relief, seeking contribution and damages ("the Original Complaint") against certain of other parties to the 1994 Settlement, pursuant to the Paragraph 9 reopener.
- G. Defendant The Grubb & Ellis Realty Income Trust, Liquidating Trust ("GERIT") has not appeared and claims to have dissolved and to no longer exist, and thus is not a party to this stipulation.
- H. On September 15, 2008 Judge Edward M. Chen signed a stipulation and order (Document No. 13) providing that, among other things, the defendants were deemed to have denied each and every allegation in the Original Complaint, that defendants were deemed to have filed crossclaims against each other for contribution and indemnity, and deemed to have filed counterclaims for contribution and indemnity against Plaintiff.
- I. Subsequent to the filing of the Original Complaint, certain parties agreed to cooperate in jointly retaining an environmental consultant to respond to the RWQCB Directives. The environmental consultant has been engaged with the RWQCB and the parties

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have made substantial progress towards meeting the demands of the RWQCB.

- J. Subsequent to the filing of the Original Complaint, the parties participated in meditation with Timothy Gallagher, Esq., during which the parties engaged in an in depth discussion and investigation relating to the factual background, ownership and operations of the parties and their conduct which may have resulted in the PCE contamination. The parties are still participating in mediation.
- K. On July 14, 2010, plaintiff Palmtree Acquisition Corporation filed its First Amended Complaint ("FAC"), adding Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation ("Northrop Grumman") as a party. Northrop Grumman has settled this matter and been dismissed with prejudice from this action; therefore, Northrop Grumman need not respond to the SAC.
- L. On July 14, 2011 plaintiff Palmtree Acquisition Corporation filed its Second Amended Complaint (the "Current Action" or "SAC"), clarifying plaintiff's intent to include in the original complaint and/or adding defendants John McCorduck, Kathleen McCorduck, Pamela McCorduck, Sandra McCorduck Marona, ("collectively the "McCorduck Defendants") and IMA Financial Corporation.
- M. The parties to this Current Action, who were defendants in the Prior Action, filed answers in the Prior Action. Some parties also filed cross-claims in the Prior Action.
- N. The responses and defenses in this Current Action should be substantially similar to those raised by the parties in the Prior Action.

Therefore, in the interest of judicial economy, pursuant to Local Rule 6-1(b) and 7-12, the parties below hereby agree and stipulate as follows:

#### **STIPULATION**

- 1. Each of the defendants in this Current Action, who have signed this stipulation and proposed order, shall be deemed to have denied each and every allegation in the SAC.
- 2. The defendants to this Current Action, who have signed this stipulation and proposed order, shall be deemed to have filed cross-claims against each other for contribution and indemnity and to have filed counter-claims for contribution and indemnity against the plaintiff.

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1	Dated: July 26, 2011		GONSALVES & KOZACHENKO
2	Dated. 3417 20, 2011		
3 4		By:	/s/ Selena P. Ontiveros Selena P. Ontiveros Attorneys for Defendant STARK INVESTMENT COMPANY, a
5			California general partnership
6	Dated: July 27, 2011		DONGELL LAWRENCE FINNEY LLP
7		By:	/s/ Thomas F. Vandenburg
8		•	/s/ Thomas F. Vandenburg Thomas F. Vandenburg Attorneys for Defendant
9			Attorneys for Defendant MULTIMATIC CORPORATION, a New Jersey corporation
11	Dated: July 28, 2011		ROGERS JOSEPH O'DONNELL
12	Dated. July 26, 2011		ROOLKS JOSLI II O DONNELL
13		By:	/s/ Robert C. Goodman Robert C. Goodman
14			Attorneys for Defendant CHARLES FREDERICK HARTZ dba
15			PAUL'S SPARKLE CLEANERS; CHARLES F. HARTZ, an individual
16			om mello i i mariada
17	Dated: July 26, 2011		GORDON WATROUS RYAN LANGLEY BRUNO & PALTENGHI
18			INC.
19		By:	/s/ Bruce Clinton Paltenghi
20			Bruce Clinton Paltenghi Attorneys for Defendant
21			McCORDUCK PROPERTIES LIVERMORE, LLC, a Delaware limited
22			liability company individually and as the successor to JOHN McCORDUCK,
23			KATHLEEN McCORDUCK, PAMELA McCORDUCK, SANDRA McCORDUCK
24			MARONA, and IMA FINANCIAL CORPORATION, a California corporation
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Dated: July 26, 2011 FOLEY MCINTOSH FREY & CLAYTOR 1 2 <u>/s/ James D. Claytor</u> James D. Claytor By: 3 Attorneys for Defendant WESTÉRN STATES DESIGN, a 4 California corporation 5 6 Dated: July 26, 2011 THE COSTA LAW FIRM 7 /s/ Daniel P. Costa By: 8 Daniel P. Costa Attorneys for Defendant STARK INVESTMENT COMPANY 9 10 11 IT IS SO ORDERED 12 August 3, 2011 13 IT IS SO ORDERED Dated: \_\_\_\_ 14 15 Judge Edward M. Chen 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28